AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend without prejudice the specification as follows:

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 28 of the Substitute Specification with the following amended paragraph:

--Figure 3 shows a state transition diagram describing the activation and deactivation of the takeover prompt as well as the conditions required for such state transitions. Figure 3 shows the rectangular state blocks 22 and 23. In this context, state block 22 describes the state of the deactivated takeover prompt, in which the visual or acoustic takeover prompt is switched off. Block 23 represents the state in which the takeover prompt is activated, i.e., in which the visual takeover prompt is illuminated or a plain text indicator is displayed to the driver, or an acoustic takeover prompt is sounded. Changes of state in accordance with Figure 3 between an activated takeover prompt and a deactivated takeover prompt occur as a function of the change of the pairs of values for the relative speed Vrel and the distance d to the target object in accordance with Figure 2. Thus, the takeover prompt is activated, for example, if an absolute minimum distance dmin is undershot according to block 24. According to Figure 2, this is the case if the distance d decreases in such a way that a pair of values made up of relative speed Vrel and distance d traverses the straight line [[19]] 18 from right to left, i.e., if the distance d decreases in such a way that it becomes smaller than the minimum distance dmin. Such a change of the pair of values Vrel and d, in which the representation in the diagram according to Figure 2 shifts from points left of straight line 18 to points right of straight line 18, i.e., an increase of the distance d such that dmin is exceeded, results in a deactivation of the takeover prompt, in which there is a transition from state 23 to state 22 as long as no other triggering conditions are fulfilled. In the same way, according to block 25, there is an activation as a consequence of a transition of state from block 22 to block 23 if a relative speed-dependent minimum distance is undershot. This is the case as soon as pairs of values made up of relative speed Vrel and distance d change according to Figure 2 in such a way that the point in Figure 2 representing this pair of values shifts from the half-plane on the right above straight line 19 to pairs of values according to the half-plane on the left below straight line 19. A third transition condition shown in block 26, which likewise represents a transition of state from block 22 to block 23, consists in the crossing of line 21 from pairs of value on the right above this line 21 to pairs of values on the left below this line 21. In this

case, the driver is alerted to the fact that the maximum possible system deceleration is insufficient to prevent a collision with the preceding target object. A deactivation of the takeover prompt is represented by transition 27, which triggers a transition of state from block 23 to block 22. In this case, the activated takeover prompt is deactivated, thus informing the driver that it is not or no longer necessary to intervene in the driving events since the danger of coming critically close to a target object currently does not or does no longer exist. This transition according to 27 occurs when none of the activation conditions according to transitions 24, 25 or 26 continue to be fulfilled. According to the pairs of values from Figure 2, this is the case when the current distance d to the target object as well as the current relative speed Vrel are such that a point on the diagram is assumed, which according to Figure 2 lies to the right of straight line 18, on the right above deactivation line 20 as well as on the right above hyperbolic line 21. If these three conditions are fulfilled, then state 23, in which the takeover prompt is active, passes over according to transition 27 into state 22 in that the takeover prompt is deactivated.--.